

# GUARD PROFILE

Illinois Department of Military Affairs - Illinois Army & Air National Guard

## History

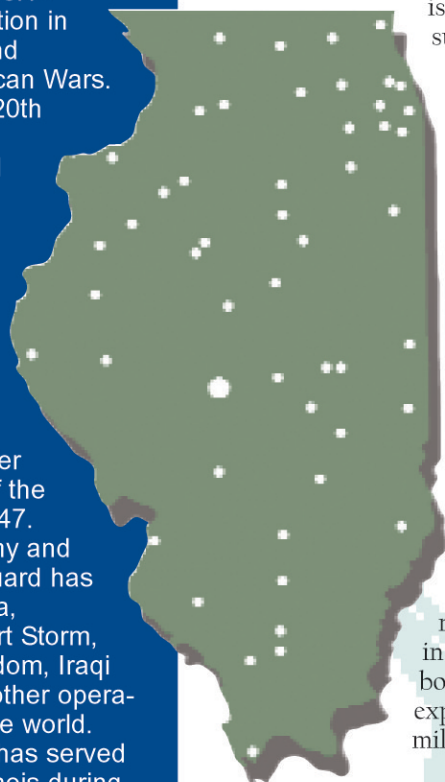
After statehood in 1818, the volunteer colonial militia of Illinois continued its role throughout the 19th century, making the largest contribution of personnel to the Union forces during the Civil War and serving with distinction in the Mexican and Spanish American Wars.

During the 20th century, the Illinois National Guard played major roles in both World War I and World War II.

Illinois was one of the first states to form aviation units, which later became part of the Air Force in 1947. The Illinois Army and Air National Guard has served in Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and other operations around the world.

The Guard has served the State of Illinois during periods of civil unrest and in response to natural disasters. Recent missions for the state include support to Operation Noble Eagle, airport security, and assistance to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The Illinois National Guard has proudly served the state and nation for more than 200 years. Its men and women perform vital roles that benefit all citizens of our country and of our state.



The Illinois National Guard is a joint Army and Air Force organization made up of 13,500 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen. Operating under the Department of Military Affairs and led by The Adjutant General, a two-star gubernatorial appointee, it is a unique military force that supports both state and federal missions.

It is involved daily in numerous community support activities and provides the governor with a strong contingency response force. At the same time, it is part of the Department of Defense's "Total Force," with an integral role in national defense strategy.

Illinois National Guard armories and air bases are located in every corner of the state and have a major impact within local communities. The economic impact in the communities includes both federal and state expenditures in excess of millions of dollars.

## Missions

The Illinois National Guard has a wide range of missions. As technology and organizational needs of the armed forces continue to change, these missions will continue to adapt. With such a number of diverse units, the missions the Illinois National Guard supports are unique and varied. Types of units and missions include:

- ▶ Support to civil authorities
- ▶ Disaster relief
- ▶ Civil disturbance
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Medical
- ▶ Infantry
- ▶ Engineer
- ▶ Military Police
- ▶ F-16 Air-to-Air and Air-to-Ground Combat
- ▶ Airlift and Air Assault
- ▶ Air-to-Air refueling

There are 124 Army Guard units in Illinois located at 53 armories and three Air Guard bases located in Peoria, Springfield and Scott AFB near East St. Louis.

## Leadership

- ▶ Governor - Commander in Chief
- ▶ President - Commander in Chief when federally activated

## Community Support

The following activities provide both training for Illinois Guardsmen and women and the opportunity to give back to the communities we live in.

- ▶ Medical support at local health care centers
- ▶ Lincoln's Challenge Academy
- ▶ Your Choice Youth Program
- ▶ Marching bands for parades
- ▶ Static displays of equipment at events



Painting of 9th Illinois at Shiloh